

Logic: *If stupidity got us into this mess, then why can't it get us out?*—Will Rogers, American humorist, 1879-1935

Women's rights movement, 1848-1998

Observing 150 years

- 1848-The world's first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York, July 19 and 20. A Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions is debated and ultimately signed by 68 women and 32 men, setting the agenda for the women's rights movement. Astronomer Maria Mitchell becomes the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- 1850-Quaker physicians establish the Female (later Woman's) Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to give women a chance to learn medicine. Due to threats against them, the first women graduated under police guard.
- 1851-Myrtilla Minder opens the first school to train black women as teachers, in Washington, D.C.
- 1855-Lucy Stone becomes first woman on record to keep her own name after marriage, setting a trend among women who are consequently known as "Lucy Stoners." The University of Iowa becomes the first state school to admit women.
- 1862-The Homestead Act promises 160 acres of free land to anyone who lives on it for five years. Many single women file claims, especially teachers who work the land in the summer and teach school in the winter. Mary Jane Patterson is the first African-American woman and the fifth woman to receive a full baccalaureate degree from Oberlin College.

- 1866-14th Amendment is passed by Congress (ratified by the states in 1868), the first time "citizens" and "voters" are defined as "male" in the Constitution. The American Equal Rights Association is founded, the first organization in the U.S. to advocate national women's suffrage.

- 1870-Iowa is the first state to admit a woman to the U.S. bar: Arabella Mansfield. Two years later, Charlotte E. Ray, Howard University law school graduate, becomes first African-American woman admitted to the bar.

- 1872-November 5: Susan B. Anthony and fourteen women register and vote in the presidential election to test whether the recently adopted Fourteenth

Amendment can be interpreted as protecting women's rights. Anthony is arrested, tried, found guilty, and fined \$100, which she refuses to pay.

- 1879-Belva Lockwood is the first woman lawyer admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1883-Mary Hoyt earns the top score on the first civil service exam and becomes the first woman (and second person) appointed under this new merit system. She starts out as a clerk in a Treasury Dept.
- 1884-Belva Lockwood is presidential candidate of the National Equal Rights Party. Her 4,000 votes are the first a woman has received in a presidential election.

- 1893-Colorado is the first state to adopt a state amendment enfranchising women.

- 1912-Juliette Gordon Low founds first American group of Girl Guides, in Atlanta, Georgia. Later renamed the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., the organization brings girls into the outdoors, encourages self-reliance and resourcefulness, and prepares them for varied roles as adult women.

- 1916-October 16: Margaret Sanger and her sister, Ethel Byrne, open the first U.S. birth control clinic, in Brooklyn, NY. It was shut down ten days later; the women were tried and imprisoned.

- 1917-During the labor shortage brought about by World War I, women are given jobs in chemical, automobile and railway plants. They also run street cars, conduct trains, direct traffic, and deliver mail. Jeannette Rankin of Montana becomes the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress.

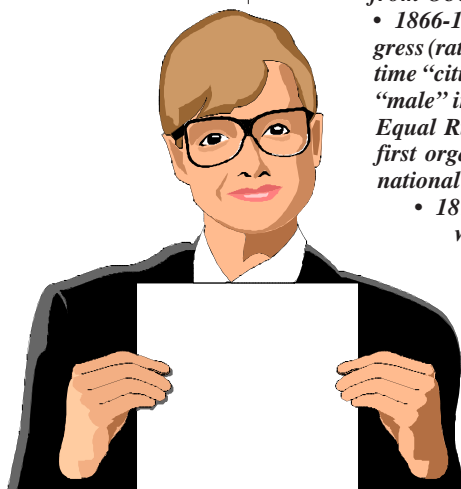
- 1920-On August 26, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution is ratified, guaranteeing American women citizens the right to vote. It is quietly signed into law in a ceremony to which the press and suffragists were not invited.

- 1924-Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming becomes the first woman elected governor of a state.

- 1932-The National Recovery Act forbids more than one family member from holding a government job, resulting in many women losing their jobs.

- 1933-Frances Perkins, the first woman in a Presidential cabinet, serves as Secretary of Labor during the entire Roosevelt presidency.

- 1938-Crystal Bird Fauset of Pennsylvania becomes the first black woman elected to a state legislature, by an overwhelmingly white district.



Life or death: *You don't get to choose how you're going to die, or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now!*—Joan Baez, American folk singer, born 1941

- 1941-Nearly 7 million women respond to a massive government and industry media campaign to take jobs during World War II, with 400 thousand joining the military.
- 1948-Margaret Chase Smith (R-ME) becomes first woman elected to the U.S. Senate in her own right. In 1964, she becomes the first woman to run for the U.S. Presidency in the primaries of a major political party (Republican). She serves in the Senate until 1973.
- 1964>Title VII of the Civil Rights Act bars employment discrimination by private employers, employment agencies, and unions based on race, sex, and other grounds. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is established and receives 50,000 complaints of gender discrimination in its first five years. Patsy Mink (D-HI) is the first Asian-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress.
- 1968-Shirley Chisholm (D-NY) is first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress.
- 1972>Title IX of the Education Amendments requires that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."
- 1973-Billie Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in "The Battle of the Sexes," a televised tennis tournament watched by nearly 48 million people. The U.S. military eliminates women-only branches.
- 1974-Little League agrees to include girls, but creates a softball branch specifically them. The Equal Credit Opportunity Act forbids sex discrimination in all consumer credit practices; extended to commercial credit in 1988.
- 1975-The first women's bank opens, in New York City.
- 1976-The United Nations "Decade for Women" begins. U.S. military academies open admissions to women.
- 1978-100,000 march in support of the Equal Rights Amendment in Washington, D.C. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act to ban employment discrimination against pregnant women.
- 1981-President Carter proclaims the first "National Women's History Week," incorporating March 8, International Women's Day. Sandra Day O'Connor is the first woman ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1993, she is joined by Ruth Bader Ginsberg.
- 1983-Sally Kristen Ride became the first American woman in space

- on the shuttle Challenger.
- 1984-Geraldine Ferraro is the first woman vice-presidential candidate of a major political party (Democratic Party).
- 1985-Wilma Mankiller becomes first woman installed as principal chief of a major Native American tribe, the Cherokee in Oklahoma.
- 1986-The Supreme Court declares sexual harassment is a form of illegal job discrimination.
- 1987-Responding to the National Women's History Project, the U.S. Congress declares March to be National Women's History Month.
- 1996-U.S. women's spectacular performance in the Summer Olympics (19 gold medals, 10 silver, 9 bronze) is said to reflect the large numbers of girls and women active in sports since the passage of Title IX.
- 1997-Elaborating on Title IX, the Supreme Court rules that college athletics programs must actively involve roughly equal numbers of men and women to qualify for federal support.

Source—National Women's History Project



Detail, "Birth of Venus," by Sandro Botticelli

Families influence local career choices

Six of ten women employed in a technical capacity in HED at Fort Shafter said that a lot of the influence for their career choice lay with the inspiration of another female—usually a relative or a friend. This person frequently provided encouragement for a career related to the math and science they were good at, and in some cases, had already made similar choices.

Attorney Pat Billington, OC, said that her grandmother felt that college attendance was important for all women, and that men, on the other hand, should just go after specific jobs, with college an option if they so desired.

Environmental engineer Linda Hihara-

Endo, ED-CE, with a doctorate in civil engineering, said that a favorite aunt who had graduated from college at a time when not many women did so was a source of inspiration for her.

Engineers Tammy Luke, Kathy Ahsing and Nani Bennett said that they became engineers because they were good in the math and science skills required by the profession and found the prospect interesting. Others cited the expectations of parents and teachers as positive influences in seeking out a technical career. They said that the assumption that they would make a contribution to society at a level in keeping with their abilities opened doors for them that they previously hadn't considered.—Alexander Kufel